THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine - April 2012



Editorial

I've never been to a Beetle Drive before. The one held in aid of Church funds last month was a great success. Many thanks are due to April Curnow for all her hard work in organising the event and preparing the food. With her many helpers and the compering skills of Rev Philip Derbyshire it was a most enjoyable time.

There's another event in the Church Room on Friday 20th when Colin Higgs will be asking the questions at his Quiz and Supper Night (see add on page 3). Ideally Colin would like you to form a team of 6 - but I'm sure on the night it will be possible to fit you in. It's usually the teachers who win these events - I think it's about time they met their Nemesis!

I haven't spotted any frog spawn yet - I'm still intent on trying to reintroduce frogs to my ponds - so if you know where I might find a good quantity please let me know.

A pair of Canada geese have taken up residence (as usual) - last year we also had a pair of swans for the first time but they did not stay to breed. The AVDC owl man came to check our owl boxes; but so far nothing to report.

With a hosepipe ban on it's way it feels like Spring has sprung. The daffodils are now very abundant. The daffodils opposite my house on the road verge (originally planted by Mrs Bellingham) have attracted the attentions of passing motorists - usually to gather a bunch for themselves, but the other day I spotted one just taking photos. I think it's time I found out if the lawnmower still works - the grass is starting to grow.

Happy Easter to you all.

John



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- WHAT'S on in APRIL
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- WINDFARMS

THE CHRONICLE

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A note to all would be advertisers— More than 205 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish Magazines). Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue Friday 27th April

Please pass items to the Editor John Hardcastle or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctors' Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

<u> Alison's Gossip Column</u>

BIRTHDAYS

The Green. The funeral of Doris Scutchings took place 14th March

Welcome to Jeff and Briony who have moved into 8,

April Chris Farrands 1 st 3rd Katy Bull-Diamond 4th Ian Hinds 5th Caroline Lane 6thPhilip Wheaton 7th Karen Brandon **9**th Harry Bystra 11th Adrian Bystra Laura Whyte 11th 13th Annie Copping **Anthony Palmer** 13th 17th Jan Rose 18th Robert Clarke 20thSam King 20thAlison Lewis **April Curnow** 22ndMatthew James 23rd 26thAbbie Lee 27th Kate Curry 28th Diana Picking 28th**Kirsty Peacock** 30^{th} Chris Espley

21st April birthday Queen Elizabeth II

Holiday Refuse Collection Dates

Revised Collection
Friday 13th April
Friday 11th May
Saturday 9th June
Friday 15th June

LITTER BLITZ

Please take the time and spend an hour helping to keep our village tidy. Meet outside the Church Room on Saturday 31st March 10am

sack and picker will be provided please bring your own gloves.

in the church. She was a long term resident of Aston Abbotts, living at 77, The Green and running the Post Office and playing the organ in church.

Monday 23rd April - St George's Day

St George's Day is not widely celebrated in England and many people do not even know the date on which it is marked. Flags with the image of St George's cross are flown on some buildings, especially pubs, and a few people wear a red rose on their lapel. Church services on the Sunday closest to April 23 often include the hymn 'Jerusalem', written by the poet William Blake. The words describe a supposed visit to Glastonbury, England, by Jesus Christ during his youth.

Aston Abbotts Summer Ball 2012

Saturday 28th July 2012

Yes yes we are going to do another one.... to be honest with you we always were! We just had to get Frank through Paddy's day and that nearly didn't happen due to some leg wrestling on a pub floor....

Well anyway more details will follow but to wet your appetite we have decided this one is going to the biggest yet. It being the Olympic Diamond Jubilee year you can expect a special occasion. So don't miss James Perkins out....

COLIN'S QUIZ & SUPPER

Another opportunity to enjoy an entertaining 'team quiz' evening in the Church Room on

Friday 20th April

Commencing at 7.00 pm. Tickets at only £5.00 include a delicious cheese platter by April. Bring along your own favourite 'tipple'. You can be assured of a highly entertaining evening. Tickets at £5.00 each are available from Colin Higgs 681343

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NOT ON THE ALLOTMENT DIARY (Warning: this article does not contain flashlight photography, but does contain material which may worry readers of a nervous disposition).

The surgeon at the Horton Hospital surprised me, when I met him for my pre-op appointment before my hip operation, by asking if I wanted to have the operation under a general or local anaesthetic, and indicated that his recommendation was for the latter!

Knowing that the operation would involve sawing off a chunk of my femur, and them drilling a hole in it to accept a metal prosthesis, you can imagine my initial reaction! Not being especially brave, I was not sure I could cope with this if I remained conscious, and was initially astonished that it should even be considered. However, on reading more about it, I discovered that there were reasons why a local was preferable; the principal being that one recovers from the operation far quicker, and one can be got out of bed, and so begin using the new joint much more quickly - usually the morning after the op.; whereas a patient who has had a general will take much longer to recover from the "woozy" effect of the anaesthetic, and may suffer from nausea, headaches, etc., for day or so. I also discovered that in addition to the local anaesthetic, one can ask for a sedative, and I accordingly decided - with some misgivings - that this was the route for me.

Consequently, my operation was carried out under a local anaesthetic. The anaesthetist started by giving me an epidural injection, which froze the lower half of my body, and then gave me a second nerve-blocking injection in the affected hip. Finally, at my request, he then injected a mild sedative, so that I did not worry about what was happening – and for reasons you will read later, I think this was a vital part of the jigsaw. On the operating table they built a small tent over me, so that I could not see what was going on, and I lay there, fully conscious during the whole of the operation, listening to Mozart on my Walkman (I'm not sufficiently with-it to own an I-pod or anything similar).

During the operation, while I felt absolutely nothing, I clearly heard the surgeon saw through the top of my femur; then, later smelled the adhesive he was using to stick the plastic cup into my pelvis; and finally heard him banging away with a hammer two or three dozen times, clearly driving the metal prosthesis with a ball on the end far enough down into the top of my femur; presumably to make sure it was secure, and that both legs were the same length – and all this with total equanimity on my part: indeed some wry amusement! I am sure this was the effect of the sedative I had been given. (I can't believe I would have shown such sang froid without it!)

Finally, after about an hour and a half (a guess based on the amount of Mozart I had been able to listen to), the operation was over, and the operating team, porter and other assistants moved me off the operating table onto my bed (which had been wheeled through to the operating theatre), and I was taken back to my room

I cannot speak too highly of the treatment I received from the surgeon and other staff at the NHS hospital where the op. was carried out. The only slight complaint I might have is that they should perhaps have given me stronger drugs to control the pain during the first night after the operation: once the pre-op. drugs had worn off, I was in some discomfort, and only managed to sleep for two or three hours during the night. While I could have asked for more drugs, I didn't want to make a fuss, and did not know what is normal. The after-sales service was superb: a room to myself; a television mounted on the ceiling above my bed (so that I was able to watch both rugby internationals on the Saturday afternoon after the op.); and a bed which I could adjust into any position in which I was comfortable.

(Incidentally, the reason why I went to the Horton Hospital in Banbury is that I was given a choice of which hospital I wanted to go to I discovered that if I wanted to go to Stoke Mandeville, it would be 183 days before I could see a surgeon for a pre-operation assessment, and then Heaven only knows how long before the operation itself. At Banbury, I got to see my surgeon about 6 weeks after the referral

continued on page 7

MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

Music lovers will be pleased to know that members of the PCC are making arrangements for this popular event to be held in Aston Abbotts again this year.

At present, the date is set for the 27th of May, but keep a 'lookout' in future issues of The Chronicle for further details.

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CALL ROB MOBILE - 07855 236 726 by my GP, and the initial date for the operation was originally fixed for just over 2 months' later (despite the fact that the period included the Christmas and New Year holidays). My op. was then postponed for a further 3 weeks, but even so, by mid-April – the date when I could have expected to see a surgeon at Stoke Mandeville for the initial interview - I should be well on the way to recovering from the operation. Added to which, the unit at Banbury is a purpose built unit where they do nothing but operation on joints like hips. The decision to go to Banbury was, as current slang has it, a no-brainer).

I started walking the following morning with a zimmer frame; but I am writing this article less than 4 weeks after the operation and I can already hobble around the house without a stick; and can quite comfortably go for walks of half a mile or so with one; and do things like going round the supermarket. Unfortunately I will not be allowed to drive a car until 6 weeks after the op., and gardening and golf are both 'verbotten' for 3 months. Adam is doing a good job of looking after me, and trying to make sure I don't do the things I have been told not to do – like bending over too far: and in a stroke of genius moved our fridge from its position below the work-surface to a new temporary one on top of it, so that I can get things from the fridge, or put things back there, without any bending.

Meanwhile, on the allotment, he has rotavated the ground, and any day now we hope to start the first of this season's planting. (When I say "we", I am envisaging my being in a supervisory capacity). I have ordered my new seeds from Thompson & Morgan — including, this year, a blue potato. (Well, the catalogue calls it "blue", but I think from the picture that it is really a purple colour, like all the so-called "blue" roses I have ever seen). Still the flesh will remain the purply-blue colour after cooking, which will be interesting.

Peter Shorrock

Countryside Matters

It is a known fact that if you work and live in the countryside rats are ever present, in hedgerows, fields and gardens. This is why, for the time being, our small collection of free range hens have had to go. Laying hens seem to attract rats like no other animal; it must be the combination of layers, pellets and household scraps that the rats find attractive. There is nothing a laying hen will not eat and the same goes for a rat. I have also known rats to chew through wire, timber, tin and even tunnel under and come up through concrete. So the hens had to go. The rats would even steal eggs at times and they love to live in compost heaps! So a consistent onslaught of traps and poison were in use. The poison is a waterproof nugget with a hole in the middle to push a steel rod through this then attaches to a dog proof plastic bait box. Hence the rats can't pull the bait out and can munch away in warm and weatherproof surroundings. The resultant dead bodies are cleared up by the local red kites. The poison does not kill twice (I have carefully checked this) but the neat poison is deadly to dogs, so beware!

The results of this activity are quite slow to materialise and I am thinking about reverting to terriers and chainsaw smoke, the old fashioned country way that produced tremendously successful results and a pint down the pub afterwards. But firstly I must check with the NFU to see that I am not breaking the law. i.e. hunting with dogs!

Rattus norvegicus, the brown rat, steeped in folklore and myth, is a creature despised by man and has the tenacity to survive almost anywhere. But all the 'plastic urban anti hunting politician' can see as his mission in life is to change countryside ways and interfere in our countryside pastimes. Who are these idiots and do gooders? Having checked, I think I am just in the clear but when do these people find the time to try and change the countryside ways? I suppose they never have rats and urban foxes in their suburban gardens.

James Henderson

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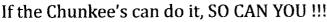
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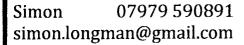
Astonbury 2012 - 7th July

Yes, Astonbury has a new team so put **Sat** 7th **July** on the calendar and invite your friends. We've been putting together an event that we know will have to go a long way to meet the expectations of the village, but we're pretty confident we can put on a great show. Expect a few nice additions, a great production and a wide variety of great live music.

Musicians wanted!!! I've seen lots of you pick up a guitar, ukulele, sing, etc. at parties and BBQ's so we really want to put you all on a stage.

Believe me, being on stage with lots of other musicians is far easier than standing up there on your own, so if you ever wanted to be in a band, we can make it happen. Even if you can only play three chords, you're in! If you want to sing your favorite song, tell me it... we will have a house band that will be more than happy to play with you.







OLD BRIDGES of BUCKS by Colin Higgs

Old bridges are fast disappearing as modern day traffic renders them too narrow/or able to bear present day loads (HGV's etc).

The only mediaeval bridge in Buckinghamshire is at Thornborough on the Buckingham/Bletchley Road - it has three ribbed arches and 2 plain ones to the East and three breakwaters on the south side; the bridge only took one way traffic, but anew section of road was built to protect it.



The old Hardwick Bridge

crossing Creslow Brook on the Aylesbury-Buckingham Road was widened several years ago and lost its stone parapets, the old bridge was built in 1839 by the Trustees of the Wendover-Buckingham Turnpike Road.

Bridges were also built to carry secondary roads over rivulets and have their charm such as the one on the A413 near Winslow, the main road has been diverted to protect it and now forms part of the layby among trees.

Bridge repairs in olden times were considered as important as repairs to churches and grants were often made for a Parish Church or a nearby bridge.

Thornborough Bridge, near Buckingham

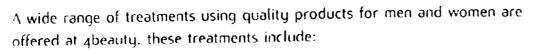
OS Map 165 729 332

Car park with picnic and interpretative facilities. A 4 mile long circular walk can be followed around Thornborough from the historic, mediaeval bridge passing Roman burial mounds, the remains of a mediaeval village and a nature reserve along the disused Buckingham canal.

Sharing a hot cross bun with another is supposed to ensure friendship throughout the coming year, particularly if "Half for you and half for me, Between us two shall goodwill be" is said at the time. Because of the cross on the buns, some say they should be kissed before being eaten. If taken on a sea voyage, hot cross buns are said to protect against shipwreck. If hung in the kitchen, they are said to protect against fires and ensure that all breads turn out perfectly. The hanging bun is replaced each year

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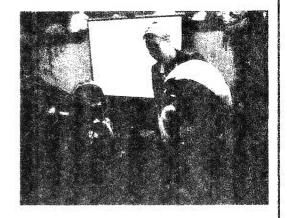
The Scouts have been very busy recently – they have been working hard learning about aspects of Aylesbury's history, including a walk around the town centre. They have also been swimming, taken part in a District Quiz and are getting ready to take part in a District cookery competition, to be held outdoors over an open fire. The Scouts have also been working towards their Stage Three Emergency Aid badge, so everyone is warned not to become ill or have an accident anywhere near them, as they will

want to practice their new found skills!

In recent weeks the Beavers have been making pancakes (cooked over a candle), had a visit from the local Police Community Support Officer, made Mother's Day cards and attended the District Handicraft event. The Beavers and Cubs will also be holding a joint meeting, to make cakes to sell in aid of the Air Ambulance Trust.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are open to girls and boys aged between 6 and 14. We meet weekly at the Scout Hut in Chiltern Road. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Group Scout Leader, Michelle Parker, on 01296 681911, or via email:

quaveriw@yahoo.co.uk



VIC SCOTT'S DIARY - Crow versus Owl

One day towards the end of April [1945] I witnessed a rather remarkable battle between a Carrion Crow and a Tawny Owl. It was the middle of the afternoon, and the sun was shining from a cloudless sky.

Sitting in a spinney I could hear some distance away a number of angry birds 'mobbing' some bird of prey.

Suddenly there flew along the edge of the spinney, (in broad daylight) a tawny owl flying about three feet from the ground, chased by a carrion crow (which had at the time a nest in a nearby tree). The crow, swooping on the owl from the rear, struck it such a violent blow on the back of the head that it fluttered to the ground, partly stunned. The crow was on it immediately, pecking and tearing with all its power, while the owl fought back hard.

Whether it was because of the bright sunshine dazzling it's eyes I do not know, but from the start it was clear that the owl was having the worst of the fight. After several minutes had passed, the crow was standing on the owl, plucking out its feathers, while the owl screeched in pain.

I realised it was time to intervene, so, climbing over the fence, I ran towards the birds, at which the crow made a hasty retreat, leaving the owl lying injured on the ground. On seeing me approach the owl tried to flutter away, but I caught it with very little trouble, and, carrying it some distance from the scene of the encounter, waited for it to revive sufficiently to fly away.

It appeared that the bird had not fed well of late, for it was in a very thin, poor state. While held, the bird was very quiet, and made no attempt to struggle, or peck, only looking up at me with its large round, deep blue eyes, and occasionally clicking its beak. When I finally released the owl, it flew steadily and silently away, and was lost to my sight among the trees.

Facts about the Diet of Tawny Owls 24th April 1946

On the 19th April 1946, I found in a twelve feet high ash stump with a hollow at the top a nest of Tawny Owls (Strix aluco sylvatica); containing three young. Two of these appeared to be just over a week old, while the third must have been nearly a fortnight. Although it must be admitted the Tawny Owl kills a number of small birds, the amount of good done by these birds is absolutely remarkable. In this particular nest were eighteen half-grown rats, and five field mice, but not a sign of any bird that had been killed. Not one of these rats could have been more than three days in the nest, for they were all in fresh condition. They were arranged in a semi-circle around the nest, all with their tails pointing to the centre, most of them having had their heads bitten off. The three young owls mentioned above were successfully reared, and left the nest without interference.



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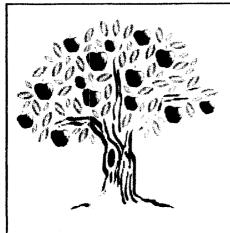
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ASTON ABBOTT BOOK CLUB

The February meet was held at Christine Scott's house to discuss "Behind the Scenes at the Museum" by Kate Atkinson. We all loved this book for it's social commentary on our own lives, its sadness and humour. It's a book we would all recommend. It is set in Yorkshire and plots the tangled life of Ruby and her family. Ruby's mother Bunty suffers the drudgery of being married to George - a marriage she didn't want but reasoned it was her last chance. She dreamt of being a movie star swept off her feet by a romantic hero - but life's not like that. A rattling good read.

April's book, chosen by Gaynor Erskine-Walker, is "The House by the Dvina" by Kate Atkinson. Meet at her house on Wednesday, 25th April at 8.00 pm.

John Hardcastle



VILLAGE ORCHARD

As many of you will know the gate between the allotments and the orchard has been moved and repaired - all it needs now is a catch which has probably been done by the time you read this.

A fence has been erected as a boundary between the allotments and the orchard - a good quality fence which should last at least 20 years. The turfs urgently need moving as it wont be long before the first topping of the grass should be done.

The biggest worry for the orchard is rain. Will there be enough to get the trees growing - will there be any?

As you may know I have a means of transporting water to the site but I have to fill it with a hosepipe - will this be banned? What a job to water all the trees regularly.

I am a natural optimist and still say we could have plenty of rain - there is still time.

In the meantime look out for the first green leaf in the orchard. Where will it appear?

Could there be any blossom this first year?

Have any of the bird nesting boxes been used?

How many moles live in the orchard - what do you think?

Go and have a look and keep us informed.

Peter Knight

A big thank you is due to Peter Knight and John Dixon for completing the gate and fencing - if you would like to offer your help in clearing the turfs/turves and with watering then please contact Peter Knight 681478 John Hardcastle 688070 Gordon Smith gordon.smith53@btinternet.com Ed See Peter's 'Orchard Report' on page 15

Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club

LADIES CLUB SPRING LUNCH

In March each year the Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club have a fund raising lunch and so it was that on 15th March this took place in the Church Room here in Aston Abbotts.

Twenty ladies sat down to eat Chicken Chasseur served with creamy mash and a dish of peas and leeks with pancetta. There was a choice of red or white wine or fruit juices to accompany the meal. The ladies found room to enjoy a dessert of cheesecake decorated with strawberries and cream and followed by coffee.

The funds raised from this meal came to £109.64.

The next meeting is on April 19th when Dr. Kirsty Rees will be talking about sign language. Kirsty is the wife of Neil who gave us the talk about King Zog of Albania in January. Kirsty and Neil are good friends to the village and love to visit here.

April Curnow

Easter Island

Many people have found Easter Island history very fascinating! On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1722, a Dutch sea captain named Jacob Roggeveen landed his ship on an island known as *Te Pito o Te Henua*, meaning "The Center of the World." Captain Roggeveen renamed the island Easter Island. Located 2200 miles (3500 kilometers) off the coast of Chile, it is the world's remotest inhabited island. The island is 63 miles in size with three extinct volcanoes; but technically speaking, the island is a single massive volcano that rises over 10,000 feet from the ocean floor! Once a luscious refuge for migratory birds and wildlife, the island has now been stripped of its native forest due to overpopulation and improper farming techniques.

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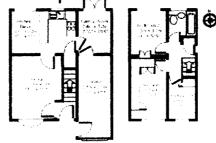
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ORCHARD REPORT - An 'official' inspection of all the trees was carried out; I am pleased to advise as follows.

The winners of the 1st in leaf competition is tree no. H 10 that is not allocated as yet. Second is tree no. G 10 Juan & Brigitte. Third equal Debbie Whitehouse and Bob Carvey.

To be commended:- John & Pam Dixon, Watts family, Alan & Jo, Maggie Smith (due probably to the effect of the added bells).

We predict that G 11 Apricot of Debbie Whitehouse will flower well and Pam & David Gray's will also flower in it's first year as well. Selwyn & Jackie's tree D 8 Warwickshire Drooper looks promising.

All together a very encouraging inspection!

Wotton Costard (Ed & Judy's tree) looks a late starter and stands no chance against The Reverend Wilks (my tree)! The inspector suspects that Alan & Jo's tree has benefitted from secret waterings by Bark the dog (no holds barred in this competition).

All the above is of course light hearted as the quince tree will always come into leaf just before the cherries that are just before the plums. Apricots will always be first to flower - unless, of course, I'm a Dutchman

Peter Van Knight

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Your local bowls Club in the village of Cheddington was founded in 1983. 5 years later the Club moved to The Recreation Ground in Cheddington High Street.

The Pharoahs of Egypt played bowls! Since then the game has taken many forms. You may have heard of Bocce (Italian), Bolla (Saxon), Bolle (Danish), Boules (French), Ula Maika (Polynesian) and, of course, todays popular Crown Green and Lawn bowls. The oldest Bowls green still played on is in Southampton, which dates from 1299.



Your Bowls Club is open April 17th to Sept

Try bowls any Tuesday (2pm) or Friday (6pm)

May 2010: Open Day & 8:60 (215)

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB, your friendly local Club, is for everybody – all ages, beginners to experts.

Our Open sessions are an ideal opportunity to get to know bowls and make new friends. Just come with trainers or flat soled **shoes. We will** supply the rest, including a cuppa or something stronger from the bar.

www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk / The Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington Contacts: Niget on 01442 824 679 or Sue on 01296 668 772

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You should give Bowls a go. You will be warmly welcomed at our Open Day & BBQ on May 20th, starting at 2 pm and on any Tuesday (2pm) or Friday (6.15 pm) from May to September.

Shakespeare mentions bowls in Cymbeline. Henry v111 and King James 1 loved bowls. The game's magic ensures its continued popularity with young and the mature, for it is easy to get into and rewarding from the outset. It is a game of fun and friendships. It challenges mind, body and spirit – just enough!

We love bowls and our Club. We think you will too.

Cheddington Bowls Club contacts: Nigel 01442 824679 or Sue 01296 668772

SPRING INTO ACTION

As the days become longer and the daffodils flower, the sun shines brightly into our rooms and, oh dear, just look at that dust! Although Quentin Crisp the author is reputed to have said that dust gets no thicker after three years, most of us prefer not to test that theory.

We all have standards we like to maintain but sometimes we just can't physically manage the house and garden like we used to when we were younger. For anyone who wants a bit of extra help at home, you can ring Age UK Bucks and ask about the Help at Home service.

There are cleaners, shopping help, gardeners, handymen, and even hairdressers, computer tutors, therapeutic massage ladies, and the toe nail cutting team. All will visit at home, at a reasonable price, and at a day a time to suit.

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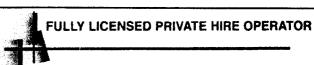
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WINGRAVE C of E SCHOOL What have we been learning?

The following questions are all based on recent topics studied at school. If you bring an answer to Mrs Britnell by Monday 16th April you will be awarded 5 house points for each correct answer.

- 1 What is a rainforest?
- What is the canopy in a rainforest?
- 3 Name three animals that can be found in the rainforest?
- 4 When and where was Roald Dahl born?
- When did Roald Dahl write his first children's book?
- 6 Where is Roald Dahl buried?
- 7 In Science what is DNA an abbreviation for?
- 8 Write a brief description of forensics.
- 9 Name four types of forensic science.
- How would you write; "Hello, how are you?" in French?

The Spring term has been very busy with the children taking part in many different activities; including field trips, workshops and community projects. The focus on reading has continued with the introduction of a weekly reading raffle for those children who read daily to an adult. Children have continued to take part in competitive sport and a group of year 5 and 6 pupils have successfully won the silver Cottesloe dance extravaganza. To help promote road safety pupils from year 5 have completed bikeability training and all pupils, from year 2 upwards, have developed their road safety through the support of a visiting safety truck.

Date for the diary

This year the children will be lucky enough to celebrate May Day on the 1st May in the traditional way; distributing May garlands, dancing around the May pole and all participating in traditional dances.





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Aston Abbotts Website - further updates www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

This is a website for the village and I want it to be useful to villagers as well as to people looking up Aston Abbotts on the internet. If there is something you would like to see on the site then please email me - you will find contact details on the site. I would also be interested in adding more photo galleries, so if you have taken some interesting pictures of Aston Abbotts or village events please get in touch. I would also like to add any pictures of Aston Abbotts in the past and I'd be grateful if I could borrow any for scanning - they will be returned unharmed and very promptly. Thank you.

Phil Spooner



A Christmas or New Year's party in the Church Room in the 1950's



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Their will be lots of garden plants on sale
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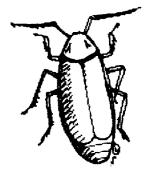


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Beetle Drive

Some of you, like me, were probably thinking what on earth is a Beetle Drive. Well I, with a number of friends, went to find out and had a great night.

Basically it entails getting into a Volkswagon and driving... only joking.

It's a game...You roll the dice and depending on the number you get you can start to create your beetle. This is done in competition with the other members of your table and in the room. Much fun was had especially following the consumption of some alcoholic beverages.

The evening was hosted by our new vicar, he seems a very nice chap, and with a full room I am sure a good amount of money was raised. As always the food provided was outstanding, so special thanks go to April and everyone who helped arrange a wonderful evening.

James Perkins



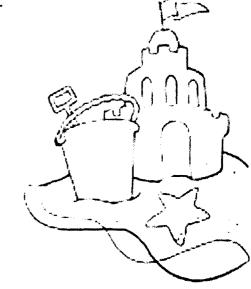
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A Cuban Adventure Judy and I spent the last two weeks of February touring Cuba.

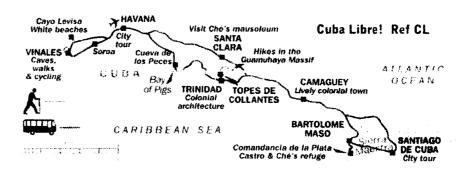
Cuba has had a very troubled history. In my view Fidel Castro has had to fight very hard for his people and his principles – not always successfully, but I think history will be kind to him. The country is very poor and lacks money and trade to lift the population out of the poverty they currently endure. There is deep mistrust of America and any imperialist nation – and Russia wasn't very kind to them either. They like Venezuela - it supplies them their petrol and diesel.

With Fidel Castro's brother Raul now in charge you sense that things are going to change. From a tourist's point of view I would suggest now is the time to visit before big money funds a tourism explosion.

It is a very beautiful island. It's a large island, about half the size of the UK.

If you are travelling to Cuba do ensure you tra

Cuba do ensure you travel direct. Virgin Airlines fly direct. Our tour operator had us flying Iberia via Madrid. This adds at least five hours to what should be a nine hour flight.





First stop was Havana – old Havana is a treasure house of the most fantastic 18th and 19th Century buildings. In another country these would probably have been pulled down in the name of progress – but because Cuba is so poor these buildings have survived. Coupled with this is the vast army of old 1950's American cars that somehow are still road worthy, just.

On our first night we were taken to a roof top restaurant – by repute very fashionable – it was appalling – the place was filled with BBQ smoke and it was draughty and cold – 'welcome to Cuba' – we were told there were no potatoes in Cuba, not the right time of the year.

Havana is a photographer's dream. Everywhere there's another gem to look at.

We travelled on to the town of Trinidad. Another photogenic place – every building a different colour. The best ones built on the proceeds of sugar cane.

Part of our trip involved trekking in the mountains – the guidebook called it 'easy' walking. If this was easy I shudder

to think what 'moderate' and 'hard' are like. I was knackered at the end of the day and crawled into my sleeping bag on a thin mattress. We slept outdoors on a covered veranda.

Cockerels started talking to each other at 3.30am – but I didn't care.

Next day was more trekking but this time we finished at a mountain pool fed by a waterfall – getting in was a struggle but it was so refreshing once you'd dared yourself to plunge in.

Our next port of call was Camarguey – the hotel information included the request 'Please do not wear underwear in public places'. Our evening meal had to be rearranged as half the town was blacked out – part of an energy saving programme.

It's in this part of Cuba that most of the cattle are reared. This means that meat and milk are relatively cheap compared to other parts of the island. A consequence is that the police are likely to make spot checks to ensure that you are not smuggling food to other parts of

Cuba – this is a throwback to the Russian way of doing things.

continued on page 25

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We have created a kitchen garden so we can use freshly picked vegetables and herbs for are soups and salads.







Roads in Cuba are generally only two lane – they carry all sorts of traffic. Cyclists, horses and old tractors are the norm. Travel is therefore slow and the roads are bumpy. By law you are required to stop at railway lines (no level crossings here). It was striking to note that there was no litter anywhere. The road verges were wide and very well maintained. They are used to graze tethered cows, horses, goats and pigs and are cut with machetes to gather fodder for animals. Every town was also spotless. People live in very modest houses/shacks – their yards are again swept clean. Oh that Aston Abbotts' verges were so well respected. Chickens free-range everywhere – there are no foxes or other predators to worry about. Dogs and cats abound.

Public transport is very poor and unreliable. So aside from all the grazing animals etc there are also a lot of people hitch hiking.

It's an agricultural economy – very labour intensive, very rudimentary tools – must be like it was here a hundred years or more ago. Fences are made with living fence posts and sometimes cactus. Pigs and goats have wooden yokes that stop them from being able to push through the wired fences. Some of the horses looked very thin but then so did their owners.

We climbed in the Sierra Maestra – a range of mountains where Castro had his camp and from where he successfully started his campaign to oust Batista. It is a place of pilgrimage for Cubans – every town has it's 'Revolution Square' and statues to fallen heroes.

In Santiago de Cuba (Cuba's second largest city) Judy and I had a salsa dancing lesson. We were pretty useless really — not in our blood. But to watch the 'regulars' was a treat — they make it look so easy and natural.

The most famous revolutionary is Che Guevara. His bones were recovered from a Bolivian grave in the late 1990's and moved to Santa Clara where a large mausoleum has been erected in his and other revolutionaries honour. Che Guevara master minded the derailment of an armoured train sent by Batista to supply his army. This was a pivotal event and secured Castro's victory.

Lunch was usually taken on the run and it became a musical hall joke when it came to choosing what sandwich you wanted. Generally you could have ham and cheese or cheese and ham or ham or cheese (and sometimes tuna). Evening meals sometimes allowed a choice of roast chicken, fried chicken, pork steak, beef stew or fish. For our last meal we had lobster. We mostly drank beer – either Cristal 4.9 proof or Bucanero 5.4 – strong beers brewed on the island. Wine was non existent. We had Cuba Libres and Mojitos, rum base drinks, and the quantity of rum was always generous. Cuba is a multi racial state – everyone was very friendly and if you could speak a bit of Spanish that was a great help.

Our tour finished in Vinales. Its here they grow the tobacco that is so sort after to make the Montecristo and Cohiba cigars. The countryside here is especially beautiful and is a favourite tourist destination.

I really liked Cuba. Their plumbing is bad, the hotels are nothing to rave about, the food is simple but we were happy to accept that as part of the experience – one we can recommend – (and make sure you fly direct with Virgin).

John Hardcastle

The greatest legacy of the Cuban Revolution has perhaps been as an example to other would-be Chés and Fidels. The revolution spawned copycats in almost every nation in Latin America as idealistic young men and women took up arms to try and change hated governments for new ones. The results were mixed. In Nicaragua, rebel *Sandinistas* eventually did overthrow the government and come to power. In the southern part of South America, the upswing in Marxist revolutionary groups such as Chile's MIR and Uruguay's Tupamaros led to right-wing military government seizing power: Augusto Pinochet is a prime example. Working together through Operation Condor, these repressive governments waged a war of terror on their own citizens. The Marxist rebellions were stamped out, but many innocent civilians died as well.

Many Cubans disagree about the revolution. The thousands of middle and upper class Cubans who fled the nation (often to Miami) loathe Castro and have kept the pressure on the United States government to retain the embargo. Many of those still in Cuba, after years of hardship, have tried to flee to the United States or Mexico in makeshift rafts and boats. Nevertheless, there are still many in Cuba who love Fidel and continue to embrace the revolution. Will history absolve him? Only time will tell.

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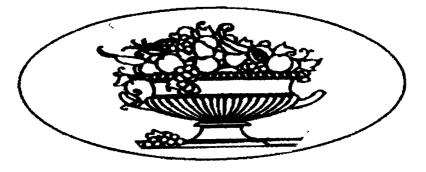
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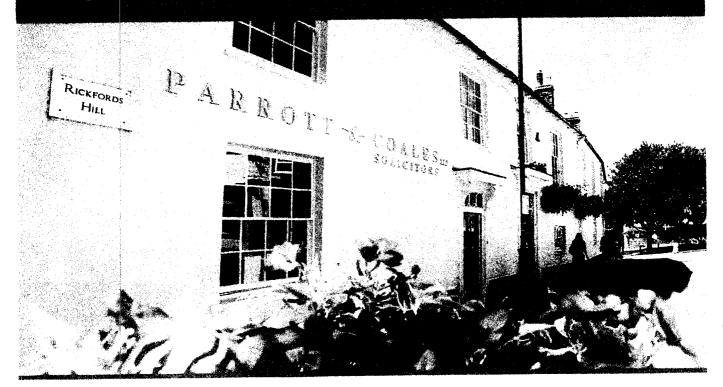
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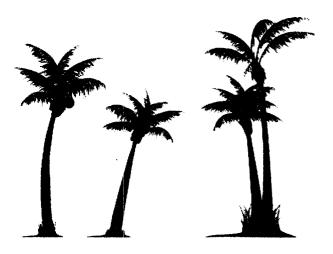
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0709 113090 email jwsarge24@gmail.com

OFSTED Registered Childminder

Wingrave

Spaces available now (full and part time) Available between 7am and 7pm mon – fri School and Pre-School drop and pick up Term time and holidays

For a chat please contact Clare....

Home:

01296 682305

Mobile: Email: 07776 180781

clare3hinds@hotmail.co.uk

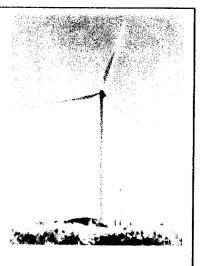


Member of National Childminding Association (NCMA)

WINDFARMS

There are currently three live projects for windfarms in the area. The most active is known as the Dorcus Lane site. This is near Hollingdon, and will not affect us directly: the villages most affected will be Soulbury and the Brickhills. A planning application is with AVDC, and will be considered by the planning committee within the next 3 months.

There are, however, two proposals which will affect Aston Abbots more directly. The first is a proposal for 6 large wind turbines to be erected on a site between Wing and Cublington. No formal application has yet been received by AVDC, but informal discussions between the potential applicant and the District Council indicate that one can be expected in the next few months.



There is also a proposal for up to 8 turbines to be erected between Wing and Rowsham. The scheme has been brewing for some 18 months, but there are no active discussions between the planners and the potential applicant at the moment.

All these applications and potential applications involve enormous structures. Typically, each turbine will have a design capacity of 2 megawatts, and will stand 130m high to the top of the blades. As a point of comparison, the tower block in Aylesbury occupied by Bucks County Council is 65m, so that they turbines will be twice as tall as this! I understand that the wind-turbines have to be this sort of size, to make use of the relatively low wind speeds in our area. (This makes me wonder why they want to erect turbines here, and don't do so in an area which is windier!)

The clerk of Cublington parish council has written to our parish council to enquire if people in this village would be interested in attending an open forum debate on windfarms. I imagine the windfarms mentioned in the last two paragraphs will be of some concern, and if you think that you might wish to attend any such forum, could you please let me know, either by telephone (681260) or by e-mail (petershorrock@gmail.com), so that we can give Cublington some idea of the number of people who might attend from this village.

Peter Shorrock (Chairman, Aston Abbotts Parish Council)



Easter is here and we at the Unicorn will have a whale weekend of events for the whole family to enjoy.

Dan't forget May bank holiday beer festival, 4th-6th May, check our website for more details.

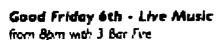
To make a reservations, please call 0/296 68/261

For our latest menu and events, please visit our website www.theunicompub.co.uk.

To find out more about any of our events, please visit our website www.theunicombub.co.uk or follow our focebook page.

What's coming in April

Monday 2nd - Monday night quiz 8.30bm



Easter Saturday 7th Childrens Arts & Crafts

Bring the children for some easter themed arts & crafts in our clubbause, while you have ome to sit back and ergay our Saturday marning breakfast.

Easter Sunday 8th -Traditional Roast Menu Lunch and dinner atting exceledit

Monday 9th - Monday night quiz

Saturday 14th - Grand National As well as showing the roce live we'll be running a sweepstake

Monday 16th - Monday night quiz

Monday 23rd - St Georges Day, Monday night quiz 8.305m

Friday 20th - Live Music from 8pm with Leslie and the Speakers

Friday 27th - Dinner and Jazz 8pm with 'Anything Goes'

Monday 30th - Monday night quiz 8.30pm









8.30bm











PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

Shop now open for milk, butter and other essentials. Pre-orders required for freshly prepared produce.

Coffee & Homemade cake Every morning from 10.30am

Monday Night is Quiz night The Unicorn Ouiz Born - 10pm

Why not bring a team?

Saturday Breakfasts -

Start the weekend with the newspapers and a Full English served form - / form

Sundays

Best of British Apasts 12pm - 3pm Booking strongly odvised

Bar Snacks

available throughout the day!

Hold your business meetings in our Club Room FREE Wiff internet accessi Ask for details

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Booking always advisable!

he Unicom, High Street Cubington, Bucks, LG / OLQ Please see web site for full details Fallw us on Facebook www.theunicornpub.co.uk

St James Church

- PALM SUNDAY 10am Holy Communion Rev. David Hemsley 1st April 9am Holy Communion Rev. Philip Derbyshire 8th April - EASTER DAY 6pm Evensong Rev Philip Derbyshire 15th April 10.30am Holy Communion Rev Roger Hale 22nd April 10am Holy Communion - BENEFICE SERVICE Rev D Witchell 29th April

Dear friends,	CHURCH DUTIES		
April is traditionally the month of 'showers' and		Cleaners	Flowers
T.S.Eliot in the Wasteland famously described it as	7th April	Colin	Easter
"The cruelist month" because of the capricious		Caroline L	
nature of it's weather.	14th	Ann	Easter
This year Holy week and Easter all fall in April		Gordon	
we confront the amazing popularity of Jesus on	21st	Shirley	donated
Palm Sunday(they wanted to make Him King!) and		Andrew	
then the hate of Good Friday and the	28th	Anita	?
apathy/excitement of Easter itself.		April	
The public can be incredibly fickle in it's affections.			

Remember the hero worship of Princess Diana (until the last month of her life when she could do nothing right at all). The tabloids in particular hounded her every move. Then she suffered her tragic death in Paris and she became a 'saint' overnight.

Music fans are notorious for their changeable attitudes to their idols: there is nothing so 'last year' as last year's star!

This is not the most attractive of human traits but fortunately it is not the whole story. There are lots of people who have been inspired by the Easter story of hope and triumph and gone on to serve others over many years in many ways.

If you would like to explore more of 'why?' we are having an ALPHA course at the Rec Pavilion at Stewkley starting on 17th April at 7.30pm: "Christianity --- Boring, Untrue, Irrelevant?" Why not come along and find out more?

Happy Easter and God Bless you all;

Revd Philip Derbyshire, Team Rector, Cottesloe Benefice.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 24 April 2012,7.45pm and 8pm, Church Room Anyone living in the parish is very welcome to come along to the annual meeting of St James's Church. There are two separate meetings to the evening: Firstly;-

- the 'annual vestry meeting' to elect two churchwardens (currently April Curnow and Caroline Abel Smith);
- the annual parochial church council meeting

The second meeting will follow immediately at around 8pm and covers:

- Changes in the church electoral roll (which is being revised in March). If you are a regular churchgoer aged 16 or over and not on the roll, this is the time to have your name added
- Annual report on parochial church council activities and the parish generally
- Financial statement for 2011
- Report on fabric of the church buildings
- Report on the Deanery Synod
- Election of six parochial representatives to the PCC
- Other matters of parochial or general church interest

Notices of both meetings will be posted in April at the church; information about the electoral roll will be posted in March.

EASTER FLOWERS

On Easter Sunday this year there

will be an arrangement of lilies behind the altar dedicated to the memory of loved ones.

If you would like to donate a lily please contact Caroline Abel Smith (681001). The stems will be £2 each and the names of those to be remembered will be read out at the 9am Easter Day Service. Please let Caroline know as soon as possible or alternatively push an envelope through her letter box with the name and money.

35

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

•			
	100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343
ı	630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
I	AVDC	Switchboard	585858
I	Baby& Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
l	Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
I	·	Sheila Humpreys	681649
l	Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
l	Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
I	Buses	L&S	415468
l	Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
l	Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
ı	Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
I	Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763
ı	Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
l	Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
ı	Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
I	County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
ı	Dial-A-Ride		330088
l	District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
l	Doctor	(emergency out of hours)	331511
١	Fete Coordinator	TBA	
l	G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
l	Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
l	Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
l	Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
ı	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
ı	Mobile Library NHS Direct	Buckingham	01280 813229
ı	Parish Clerk	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
l	Parish Council Leader	Paul Bruton Peter Shorrock	682322
	Police		681260
ĺ	Police	Emergencies Non-Emergency	999 or 112
l	Police	Wing Police Station	0845 8505505 396163/4
l	Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
l	Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
	Rector	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
	Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moult	681262
	RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
	Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
	Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
	Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
	Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
	Wingrave School	Office	681436

please advise of any errors or omissions

Hot cross buns!
Hot cross buns!
One ha' penny, two ha' penny,
Hot cross buns!
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons
One ha' penny,
Two ha' penny,
Hot Cross Buns!

The Chronicle

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Send copy and cheque payable to 'The Chronicle' to

Phil Corrigan

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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM Wing North







Inspector Emma Garside

Sergeant Paul Cladingboel

PC Frank Callaghan





PCSO Paula Boston

PCSO Tina Hobson

The neighbourhood policing teem works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

To contact them call

This is a non-emergately meridier. Alternatively, arrest them on:

What's On In APRIL

Sunday 1st	Rambling Club 2pm	meet at Woburn
Wednesday 4th	Parish Council 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 5th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
-	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Friday 6th	Good Friday - Hot Cross Buns	
Sunday 8th	Easter Day Holy Communion 9am St James Church	
Monday 9th	Easter Monday Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 10th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 12th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 15th	Evensong 6pm	St James Church
Thursday 19th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
-	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist 7.30pm	Church Room
Friday 20th	Quiz Evening 7pm	Church Room
Monday 23rd	St George's Day	
Tuesday 24th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
•	PCC & Vestry Meeting 7pm	Church Room
Thurs 26th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Sunday 29th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green

630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction. GNOMES (Girls

GNOMES (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8 pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome - GNOMES specialises in

conversation over a

glass of something.

EASTER TREASURE HUNT - Free Event!

Join us in the High Street for a Easter treasure hunt with lots of prizes to be won, can you find all the clues and get to the treasure?
All activities run from 11am until 3pm (weather permitting) and are free.

High Street, Aylesbury

INFLATABLE FUN DAY - Free Event!

Thursday 5 Apr 2012

Inflatable day in Market Square. Come and see if you can conquer the bungee run, take the bouncy castle by storm, bounce in our dome, and zoom down the mega slide. There's also free face painting.

All activities run from 11am until 3pm and are free. Some activities may vary depending on the weather.

Market Square, Aylesbury Thursday 12 Apr 2012

Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle Marloes, Lines Hill 01296 688070

Email submissions to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191 or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

LITTER BLITZ

Please take the time and spend an hour helping to keep our village tidy.

Meet outside the Church Room on Saturday 31st March 10am sack and picker will be provided -

FOR SALE

Electric Garden Shredder Hardly used - Any reasonable offer phone 681454

> MOBILE LIBRARY 10th & 24th The Green 10.30am

MOBILE LIBRARY

NEEDS YOU!!!!!
'USE IT' don't 'LOOSE IT'

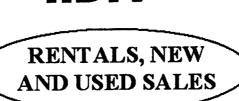
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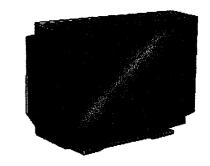
FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



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Police Seek Store Fiend

Police have issued a county-wide alert following a serious incident in a major High Wycombe household retail store. Chief Inspector Flynn told The Chronicle, "All young women between the ages of 18 and 85 should be on their guard. It is clear there is a monster on the loose. No-one is safe!"

Witnesses say that a man stealthily approached a young lady standing at the bottom off an escalator and smacked her sharply on the behind. When she swung around in terror he clapped his hand to his forehead, gasped "I thought you were Tracy Hinds", and ran off into the crowd.

Police have described the man they are seeking as being in his mid fifties, with short grey hair. They are unable to confirm reports that the same man was captured on CCTV earlier that day buying a copy of *Aircraft Parts Monthly* in W. H. Smith, and later trying to peer through the back window of a local tattoo parlour.

The police have appealed for other victims of this man who may have suffered similar attacks to come forward. A special call centre has been set up to deal with the expected influx of calls

Police have warned all women not to approach this man, as he may fondle without warning

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY